

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Yoshihiro YOSHII, et al.

Serial No.

Group Art Unit:

Confirmation No.

Filed: August 24, 2001

Examiner:

For: MEDIA-DISTRIBUTION-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT APPARATUS AND STORAGE
MEDIUM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please REPLACE the following claims with the claims as originally filed:

3. The media-distribution-resource management apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein

said shared-resource management unit, comprising:

a resource-utilization-information extraction unit extracting available resource information from said resource-utilization -information management unit; and

a shared-resource-availability display unit displaying information about available shared resources for a media distributor;

a resource-utilization-information input unit the media distributor inputting a resource utilization request;

a shared-resource distribution unit distributing a utilization right of the shared resource in a specific time period to said distribution management unit installed in each of the media distributors

based on information that is obtained in each time zone by the resource-utilization-information extraction unit and resource-utilization-information input unit;

a shared-resource-utilization amount extraction unit extracting a utilization situation of the shared resource in a specific time period; and

a shared-resource re-distribution unit redistributing a utilization right of an unused one of the shared resources to said distribution management unit based on both the utilization situation and distribution request in a specific time period extracted by said distribution management unit.

4. The media-distribution-resource management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said distribution management unit, comprising:

an available reservation-candidate display unit displaying available content candidates to be reserved within a scope of a utilization right distributed by said shared-resource management unit;

a distribution-reservation input unit making a viewer select at least one content to be distributed out of the displayed candidates;

a distribution-reservation management unit reserving distribution for a viewer based on the selection made by the viewer from the displayed candidates;

a direct viewing reception unit making a viewer candidate without a reservation within a media distribution time;

a shared-resource confirmation unit making an inquiry for said shared-resource management unit about whether an unused one of the shared resources is available, based on the selection made by the viewer from the displayed candidates;

a direct-viewing permitting unit permitting viewing within the media distribution time based on the utilization right re-distributed by said shared-resource management unit; and

a distribution-instructing unit instructing the media distribution server to perform media distribution to a viewer that is permitted to receive direct distribution out of both viewers with the reservation of media distribution and viewer candidates without reservations.

5. The media-distribution-resource management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said distributor management unit, comprising:

a distributor-information input unit making a media distributor that wants to use the shared

resource input information about the distributor itself; and

a distributor authentication unit authenticating the media distributor based on the shared resource input information.

6. The media-distribution-resource management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said viewer management unit, comprising:

a viewer-information input unit inputting information about a viewer candidate; and

a viewer authentication unit authenticating the viewer candidate based on the input information.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 3-6 have been amended to delete multiple dependency. Claims 1-9 are pending and under consideration.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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Date: August 24, 2001

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please AMEND the following claims:

3. The media-distribution-resource management apparatus according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein

said shared-resource management unit, comprising:

a resource-utilization-information extraction unit extracting available resource information from said resource-utilization-information management unit; and

a shared-resource-availability display unit displaying information about available shared resources for a media distributor;

a resource-utilization-information input unit the media distributor inputting a resource utilization request;

a shared-resource distribution unit distributing a utilization right of the shared resource in a specific time period to said distribution management unit installed in each of the media distributors based on information that is obtained in each time zone by the resource-utilization-information extraction unit and resource-utilization-information input unit;

a shared-resource-utilization amount extraction unit extracting a utilization situation of the shared resource in a specific time period; and

a shared-resource re-distribution unit redistributing a utilization right of an unused one of the shared resources to said distribution management unit based on both the utilization situation and distribution request in a specific time period extracted by said distribution management unit.

4. The media-distribution-resource management apparatus according to [one of claims 1 through 3] claim 1, wherein

said distribution management unit, comprising:

an available reservation-candidate display unit displaying available content candidates to be reserved within a scope of a utilization right distributed by said shared-resource management unit;

a distribution-reservation input unit making a viewer select at least one content to be distributed out of the displayed candidates;

a distribution-reservation management unit reserving distribution for a viewer based on the

selection made by the viewer from the displayed candidates;

a direct viewing reception unit making a viewer candidate without a reservation within a media distribution time;

a shared-resource confirmation unit making an inquiry for said shared-resource management unit about whether an unused one of the shared resources is available, based on the selection made by the viewer from the displayed candidates;

a direct-viewing permitting unit permitting viewing within the media distribution time based on the utilization right re-distributed by said shared-resource management unit; and

a distribution-instructing unit instructing the media distribution server to perform media distribution to a viewer that is permitted to receive direct distribution out of both viewers with the reservation of media distribution and viewer candidates without reservations.

5. The media-distribution-resource management apparatus according to [one of claims 1 through 4] claim 1, wherein

said distributor management unit, comprising:

a distributor-information input unit making a media distributor that wants to use the shared resource input information about the distributor itself; and

a distributor authentication unit authenticating the media distributor based on the shared resource input information.

6. The media-distribution-resource management apparatus according to [one of claims 1 through 5] claim 1, wherein

said viewer management unit, comprising:

a viewer-information input unit inputting information about a viewer candidate; and

a viewer authentication unit authenticating the viewer candidate based on the input information.